1992

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
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Our ref: FH 8916

To those individuals/organisations
on the attached circulation list

18 June 1992

Dear Sir/Madam

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) ON THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS AT THE TIME OF SLAUGHTER OR KILLING (COM(91)136 FINAL)

I attach a copy of the European Commission proposal for a Council Regulation on welfare at slaughter and would welcome any comments you may care to make.

The proposal takes account of the provisions in the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Animals for Slaughter and will replace EC Directive 74/577 on the stunning of animals before slaughter. It applies to all animals slaughtered for food, skin, fur or other products and for the purpose of disease control. It includes, inter alia, a general requirement that any animal falling within its scope shall be spared avoidable excitement, pain or suffering during pre-slaughter handling, stunning or slaughter (Articles 1 and 3). It specifies layout and constructional requirements for slaughterhouses and it also lays down specific requirements concerning the slaughter of solipeds, ruminants, pigs, poultry and rabbits both in slaughterhouses and elsewhere (Articles 5 and 9) and the killing of fur animals (Article 10), and provides a mechanism for specific rules to be adopted for the slaughter of other species (Article 13).

The measures relating to slaughterhouses are similar to the requirements of our current domestic legislation in the Slaughterhouses Act 1974 (as amended), the Slaughter of Animals (Humane Conditions) Regulations 1990, The Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967 (as amended), the Slaughter of Poultry (Humane Conditions) Regulations 1984 (as amended) and the Scottish and Northern Irish equivalents. They also extend the welfare protection to deer and rabbits in slaughterhouses and would set mandatory minimum stunning current levels for farmed animals (where appropriate).

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The formal proposals differ significantly from the draft text (VI 5023/88-en-Rev 4) circulated under cover of Mr R J Lewis' letter of 30 April 1990, only in that regulation of religious slaughter would remain a matter for national authorities.

In order to take your views into account when discussions begin in Council working group, I would be grateful if you would send your comments to me in Room 1932 at the above address by 31 August 1992. If you have already commented in writing on the EC proposals and do not wish to add anything further, I would be grateful for confirmation that your previous comments may be used for this purpose.

In order to help inform debate on the issues raised by these proposals, MAFF intends to make comments received available at the end of the consultation period. Respondents will not be identified, and if you wish, all or part of your reply may be excluded from this arrangement at your request. To assist with these arrangements respondents are asked to provide two copies of their comments on plain paper under cover of a headed letter. The main Departmental Library at 3 Whitehall Place, London SW1 (Tel: 071-270 8419) will supply a copy of the comments document to personal callers or telephone enquirers.

Yours faithfully

J Howell

J Howell
Meat Hygiene Division F

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Board of Deputies of British Jews

Campaign For The Protection of Shechita

Council of Rabbinical Authority of the Independent Orthodox Jewish Communities in GB

Federation of Synagogues

Finchley Central Synagogues

Manchester Shechita Board

National Council of Shechita Boards

Office of the Chief Rabbi

Rabbinical Authority of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations

Spanish and Portugese Jews Congregation

Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations of GB and the Commonwealth

United Synagogue

Anjuman-E-Gujarate Muslim Soc.

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European Islamic Mission

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Society for the Reformation of Muslims in the U.K

The Council of Mosques - U.K and Eire

The Islamic Sharia Council

The Surate Muslim Khalifa Society

The Sussex Muslim Society

Union Of Muslim Organisations of U.K. and Eire

United Kingdom Islamic Mission - Oldham

United Kingdom Islamic Mission

U.K. Action Committee for Islamic Affairs

International Supreme Council of Sikhs

British Bacon Marketing Group

British Commercial Rabbit Association

British Deer Farmers Association

British Deer Producers Society Ltd

British Deer Society

British Egg Industry Council

British Meat Manufacturers' Association

British Poultry Meat Federation

British Retail Consortium

Central Association of Agricultural Valuers

Federation of Deer Management Society

Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers

Food and Drink Federation

Hide & Allied Trades Improvement Society

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Joint Consultative Council for the Meat Trade in the United Kingdom

Licensed Animal Slaughterers and Salvage Association

Livestock Auctioneers'Market Committee for England & Wales

Livestock Traders Association of Great Britain Ltd

Marks & Spencer Plc

Meat And Livestock Commission

Meat Industry Training Organisation

Meat Industry Training Council

National Association of British Market Authorities

National Farmers Union

National Federation of City Farms

National Federation of Fresh Meat Traders

National Federation of Hide and Skin Merchants

National Sheep Association

New Zealand Meat Producers Association

Road Haulage Association Ltd

The British Goat Society

The Institute of Meat

Traditional Farm Fresh Turkey Association

United Kingdom Fellmongers Association

Womens' Farming Union

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Federated Union of Managerial and Professional Officers

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Horse Rescue Fund

Horses and Ponies in Need

Horses and Ponies Protection Association

Humane Slaughter Association

Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare

Quaker Concern for Animal Welfare

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

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Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

World Society for the Protection of Animals (Eastern Region)

Agricultural and Food Research Council - Central Office

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Relief Meat Inspection Service

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United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association Ltd

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British Trout Association

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(91) 136 final

Brussels, 15 November 1991

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

on the protection of animals
at the time of slaughter or killing

(presented by the Commission)

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

By its Decision 88/306/EEC of 16 May 1988 the Council approved the European Convention for the Protection of Animals for Slaughter[1]. The Council has also adopted Directive 74/577/EEC on stunning of animals before slaughter[2]. The provisions of the European Convention are wider in scope than the Community rules.

Since Community rules were adopted in 1974, considerable research and development has led to the introduction of different slaughter methods, not all of which are accepted by all Member States. In addition, the application of the Directive concerning, in particular, the killing of animals outside slaughterhouses, has given rise to differences between the Member States.

This proposal seeks, therefore, both to permit the eventual signature by the Community of the European Convention, and by improving Community legislation in the field, contribute to facilitating the completion of the internal market in products of animal origin.

It sets out rules in respect of slaughter and killing of certain species of animals in slaughterhouses and elsewhere, based on the rules of the Convention and on recent scientific research. Provisions are included for Community inspection and for an Advisory Committee procedure.

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(1) OJ No L 137, 2.6.1988, p. 25.

(2) OJ No L 316, 26.11.1974, p. 10.

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Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

on the protection of animals

at the time of slaughter or killing

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament;

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee;

Whereas Council Directive 74/577/EEC(1) established rules on the stunning of animals before slaughter;

Whereas the European Convention for the Protection of Animals for Slaughter was approved on behalf of the Community by Council Decision 88/306/EEC(2); whereas the scope of the Convention is wider than existing Community rules on the matter;

Whereas national laws concerning the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing have an impact on the conditions of competition and accordingly on the operation of the common market in agricultural products;

Whereas there is, therefore, a need to establish common minimum standards for the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing in order to ensure rational development of production and to facilitate the completion of the internal market in animals and animal products;

(1) OJ No L 316, 26.11.1974, p. 10.

(2) OJ No L 137, 02.06.1988, p. 25.

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Whereas at the time of slaughter or killing animals should be spared any avoidable pain or suffering;

Whereas, however, it is necessary to allow for technical and scientific trials to be carried out and to take account of the particular requirements of certain religious rites;

Whereas the rules should also ensure satisfactory protection, at the time of slaughter or killing, for animals not covered by the Convention;

Whereas Directive 74/577/EEC should therefore be replaced by this Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

CHAPTER I

General Provisions

Article 1

1. This Regulation shall apply to the movement, lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter and killing of animals for food, skin, fur or other products and for the purpose of disease control.

2. It shall not apply to technical or scientific trials relating to the procedures mentioned in paragraph 1, carried out under the supervision of the competent authority, and shall not affect national provisions concerning special methods of slaughter which are required for particular religious rites.

Article 2

For the purposes of this Regulation the following definitions shall apply:

(1) slaughterhouse: any premises, including facilities for moving or lairaging animals, used for the commercial slaughter of animals;

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(2) movement: unloading of animals or driving of them from unloading platforms, stalls or pens at slaughterhouses to the premises or place where they are to be slaughtered;

(3) lairaging: keeping animals in stalls, pens, covered areas or fields at slaughterhouses in order to give them the necessary attention (water, fodder, rest) before they are slaughtered;

(4) restraint: the application to an animal of any procedure designed to restrict its movements in order to facilitate stunning or killing;

(5) stunning: any process which, when applied to an animal, rapidly induces a state of unconsciousness which lasts until death supervenes;

(6) slaughter: causing the death of an animal by bleeding;

(7) killing: any process which causes the death of an animal;

(8) competent authority: means the central authority of a Member State responsible for the application of this Regulation or any authority to which it has delegated that competence.

Article 3

Animals shall be spared any avoidable excitement, pain or suffering during movement, lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter or killing.

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CHAPTER II

Requirements applicable to slaughterhouses

Article 4

The design, construction, facilities and equipment of slaughterhouses, and their operation, shall be such as to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Regulation, in order to spare animals any avoidable excitement, pain or suffering.

Article 5

1. Solipeds, ruminants, pigs, rabbits and poultry for slaughter in slaughterhouses shall be:

   (a) delivered, moved and lairaged in accordance with the provisions of Annex A;

   (b) restrained in accordance with the provisions of Annex B;

   (c) stunned or killed in accordance with the provisions of Annex C;

   (d) bled in accordance with the provisions of Annex D.

2. The use of the puntilla, hammer or poleaxe is prohibited.

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Article 6

1. Instruments, equipment and installations for stunning or killing shall be designed, constructed, maintained and used in such a way as to achieve rapid and effective stunning or killing in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation. They shall be inspected at least daily, before use, to ensure that they are in a good state of repair.

2. Suitable spare equipment and instruments shall be kept at the place of slaughter for emergency use. They shall be properly maintained and inspected regularly.

Article 7

1. No person shall engage in the movement, lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter or killing of animals unless he or she has the knowledge and skill necessary to perform the tasks humanely and efficiently, in accordance with the requirements of this Regulation. For stunning and killing, the knowledge and skill of the person concerned shall be certified by the competent authority.

2. Rules for the application of this Article shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 17.

Article 8

Inspection and supervision of slaughterhouses shall be carried out under the responsibility of the official veterinarian, who shall at all times have free access to all parts of slaughterhouses in order to ensure that this Regulation is being complied with.

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CHAPTER III

Slaughter and killing outside slaughterhouses

Article 9

1. Where animals referred to in Article 5(1) are slaughtered outside slaughterhouses Article 5, paragraph (1)(b),(c),(d), and paragraph (2) shall apply.

2. Member States may permit derogations from paragraph 1 in respect of poultry slaughtered or killed by a farmer for consumption on the farm. However, the provisions of Article 5(2) remain applicable.

3. Where animals referred to in Article 5(1) are to be slaughtered or killed for purposes of disease control, this shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Annex E.

Article 10

1. Animals farmed for their fur shall be killed in accordance with the provisions of Annex F.

2. Surplus chicks and embryos in hatchery waste shall be killed in accordance with the provisions of Annex G.

Article 11

The provisions of Articles 9 and 10 shall not apply in the case of an animal which has to be killed immediately for emergency reasons.

Article 12

An injured or diseased animal shall not be transported for slaughter or killing where such transport would cause additional suffering to the animal.

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CHAPTER IV

Final provisions

Article 13

1. If necessary, rules for the protection at the time of slaughter or killing of animals other than those referred to in Articles 5(1) and 10 shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 17.

2. The provisions of the Annexes may be amended in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 17.

Article 14

1. Commission veterinary experts may in collaboration with the competent authorities, to the extent necessary for uniform application of this Regulation, carry out on-the-spot inspections. The Commission shall inform the Member States of the outcome of such inspections.

2. The Member State on whose territory the inspections are carried out shall provide the experts with all the assistance required for the accomplishment of their task.

3. Rules for the application of this Article shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 17.

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Article 15

Until Community arrangements on imports of food, skins, furs and other animal products from third countries have been adopted, Member States shall apply rules in respect of such imports that must be at least equivalent to those laid down by this Regulation.

Article 16

The Commission shall be assisted by the Standing Veterinary Committee, set up by Council Decision 68/361/EEC[3], hereinafter referred to as "the Committee".

Article 17

Where the procedure laid down in this Article is to be used, the following rules shall apply:

The representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter, if necessary by taking a vote.

The opinion shall be recorded in the minutes; in addition, each Member State shall have the right to ask to have its position recorded in the minutes.

(3) OJ No L 255, 19.10.1968, p. 23.

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The Commission shall take the utmost account of the opinion delivered by the Committee. It shall inform the Committee of the manner in which its opinion has been taken into account.

Article 18

1. Member States shall take the appropriate specific measures to penalize any infringement of this Regulation by natural or legal persons.

2. In the event of repeated contraventions of this Regulation, or of a contravention resulting in severe suffering of animals, a Member State may, in addition to any other sanction imposed, take measures to prohibit the person or persons concerned from engaging in the movement, lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter or killing of animals for an appropriate period.

Article 19

Directive 74/577/EEC is hereby repealed, with effect from 1 January 1993.

Article 20

This Regulation shall enter into force on the thirtieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

It shall apply with effect from 1 January 1993.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

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ANNEX A

Delivery, movement and lairaging of animals

I. General requirements.

1. Every slaughterhouse coming into operation after 1 January 1993 shall have suitable equipment and facilities available for the purpose of unloading animals from means of transport, and all existing slaughterhouses shall have such facilities available before 1 January 1995.

2. Animals shall be unloaded as soon as possible after arrival. If delay is unavoidable they shall be protected from extremes of weather and provided with adequate ventilation.

3. Animals naturally hostile to each other on account of their species, sex, age or origin shall be separated from each other.

4. Animals shall be protected from adverse weather conditions. If they have been subjected to high temperatures in humid weather they shall be cooled by appropriate means.

5. The condition and state of health of the animals shall be inspected at least every morning and evening.

6. Sick, injured or unweaned animals shall be slaughtered immediately upon arrival at the slaughterhouse. If this is not possible, they shall be separated and shall be slaughtered within two hours. Animals which are unable to walk shall not be dragged to the place of slaughter, but shall be killed where they lie.

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II. Requirements for animals delivered other than in containers.

1. Equipment for unloading animals shall have flooring which will permit a proper foothold and, if necessary, shall be provided with lateral protection. Bridges, ramps and gangways shall have the minimum possible incline. Exit ramps for calves and pigs shall not exceed a slope of 20 degrees.

2. During unloading care shall be taken not to frighten or excite the animals, and to ensure that they are not overturned on, and cannot fall from, bridges, ramps or gangways. Animals shall not be lifted by the head, horns, ears, feet, tail or fleece. When necessary, they shall be led individually.

3. Animals shall be moved with care. Passageways shall be so constructed as to minimize the risk of injury to animals, and so arranged as to exploit their gregarious tendencies. Instruments shall be used solely for guidance, and only for short periods. Instruments which administer electric shocks may be used only for bovine animals and pigs which refuse to move, provided that the shocks last no more than two seconds, are adequately spaced out and that the animals have room ahead of them in which to move; such shocks may be applied only to the muscles of the hindquarters.

4. Animals shall not be struck on, nor shall pressure be applied to, any particularly sensitive part of the body. In particular, animals' tails shall not be crushed, twisted or broken and their eyes shall not be grasped. Blows and kicks shall not be inflicted.

5. Animals shall not be taken to the place of slaughter unless they can be slaughtered immediately. If they are not slaughtered immediately on arrival they shall be lairaged.

6. Slaughterhouses shall be equipped with a sufficient number of pens for lairaging of the animals with protection from the effects of adverse weather.

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7. Lairages shall have, in addition to requirements laid down elsewhere in Community rules:

- floors which minimize the risk of slipping and which do not cause injury to animals in contact with them;

- adequate ventilation, taking into account the extremes of temperature and humidity which may be expected. Where mechanical means of ventilation are required, provision shall be made for emergency facilities in the event of breakdown;

- artificial lighting at a level sufficient to permit inspection of all animals at any time;

- where necessary, equipment for tethering animals.

8. Where, in addition to the lairages referred to above, slaughterhouses also have field lairages without natural shelter or shade, some form of protection from adverse weather shall be provided. Field lairages shall be maintained in such condition as to ensure that animals are not subjected to physical, chemical or other health hazards.

9. Animals which are not taken directly upon arrival to the place of slaughter shall have drinking water available to them from appropriate facilities at all times. Animals which have not been slaughtered within 12 hours of their arrival shall be fed, and shall subsequently be given moderate amounts of food at appropriate intervals.

10. Animals which are kept for 12 hours or more at a slaughterhouse shall be housed and where appropriate tethered, in such a way that they may lie down without difficulty. Where animals are not tethered, food shall be provided in a way which will permit the animals to feed undisturbed.

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III. Requirements for animals delivered in containers.

1. Containers in which animals are transported shall be handled with care, and shall not be thrown, dropped or knocked over. Where possible, they shall be loaded and unloaded horizontally and mechanically.

2. Animals delivered in containers with flexible or perforated bottoms shall be unloaded with particular care in order to avoid injury. Where appropriate, animals shall be unloaded from the containers individually.

3. Animals which have been transported in containers shall be slaughtered as soon as possible; otherwise they shall be watered and fed in accordance with the provisions of II.9. If they are not slaughtered immediately, the animals shall be protected from adverse weather and provided with adequate ventilation.

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ANNEX B

Restraint of animals.

1. Animals shall be restrained in an appropriate manner to facilitate their slaughter, and in such a way as to spare them all avoidable pain, suffering, agitation, injury or contusions.

2. Animals' legs shall not be tied, and animals shall not be suspended before stunning or killing or. Poultry may, however, be suspended for slaughtering provided that stunning or killing takes place directly after suspension.

3. Where animals are stunned or killed by mechanical or electrical means applied to the head, they shall be restrained individually in such a position that the equipment can be applied and operated easily, accurately and for the appropriate time. In the case of solipeds and cattle, suitable means shall be used to restrict the movement of the head.

4. In the case of poultry suspended on a moving line, measures shall be taken to ensure that the birds arrive at the stunning point in a sufficiently relaxed state to allow stunning to be carried out effectively.

5. Electrical stunning equipment shall not be used as a means of restraint or immobilisation.

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ANNEX C

Stunning or killing of animals

I. Permitted methods

1 - Captive bolt or free bullet.

2 - Concussion.

3 - Electronarcosis.

4 - Exposure to carbon dioxide.

The methods permitted for each species are:

	1	2	3	4
Solipeds	x			
Deer	x			
Cattle	x	x(1)	x(2)	
Sheep/Goats	x		x	
Pigs	x		x	x
Poultry			x	
Rabbits	x	x	x	

(1) Only for cattle over 8 months old

(2) Only with simultaneous cardiac arrest

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II. Specific requirements

1. Captive bolt or free bullet

(A) Instruments shall be positioned so as to ensure that the projectile enters the cerebral cortex. In particular, it shall be prohibited to shoot cattle in the poll position. Sheep and goats may be shot in the poll position if the presence of horns prevents use of the crown position. In such cases the shot shall be placed immediately behind the base of the horns and aimed towards the mouth, and bleeding shall commence within 15 seconds of shooting.

(B) When using a captive bolt instrument, the operator shall check to ensure that the bolt retracts to its full extent after each shot. If it does not so retract, the instrument shall not be used again until it has been repaired.

2. Concussion

This shall only be permitted using a mechanically-operated instrument which administers a blow to the skull. The operator shall ensure that the the instrument is applied to the proper position and that the correct strength of cartridge is used, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, to produce an effective stun without fracture of the skull.

3. Electronarcosis

(A) Electrodes shall be placed so that they span the brain and, if it is required in addition to cause cardiac arrest, the heart. In the case of waterbath stunners for poultry, the head shall be immersed.

(B) Where animals are stunned or killed individually, the apparatus shall:

(a) incorporate a device which measures the impedance of the load and prevents operation of the apparatus if the minimum required current cannot be passed;

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(b) incorporate an audible or visible device indicating the length of time of its application to an animal;

(c) be connected to a device indicating the voltage and the current under load, positioned so as to be clearly visible to the operator.

(C) The minimum root mean square (r.m.s.) current level during stunning shall be for:

- adult cattle, 2.5 amp.;
- pigs, 1.3 amp.;
- calves, sheep and goats, 1.0 amp.;
- rabbits, 0.3 amp.

In all cases, the correct current level shall be attained within 1 second and maintained for at least 3 seconds.

(D) Where broiler chickens are stunned or killed in groups in a water bath, a voltage sufficient to produce a minimum current of 100 milliamps per bird shall be maintained. The birds shall be in contact with the current for at least 4 seconds. For other poultry, the current shall be such as to ensure that unconsciousness occurs immediately and lasts until the animal has been killed by bleeding.

(E) Appropriate measures, such as removing excess wool or wetting the skin or, in the case of poultry, the shackle-to-leg contact, shall be taken to ensure good electrical contact.

(F) Water baths for poultry shall be adequate in size and depth for the type of bird being slaughtered, and shall not overflow at the entrance. The electrode which is immersed in the water shall extend the length of the waterbath.

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4. Exposure to carbon dioxide

(A) The concentration of carbon dioxide for stunning shall be at least 70% by volume.

(B) The chamber in which pigs are exposed to the gas, and the equipment used for conveying the pigs through it, shall be designed, constructed, and maintained in such a way as to avoid injury to the pigs and to avoid compression of the chest. Adequate lighting shall be provided in the conveyor and the chamber, to allow pigs to see other pigs or their surroundings.

(C) The chamber shall be fitted with devices for measuring the gas concentration at the point of maximum exposure and for giving a clearly visible and audible warning if the concentration of carbon dioxide falls below the required level.

(D) Pigs shall be placed in individual or double pens or containers and shall be conveyed into the gas within 30 seconds. They shall be conveyed as rapidly as possible from the entrance to the point of maximum concentration of the gas and shall be exposed to it for long enough to ensure that they are dead, or at least remain unconscious until they have been killed by bleeding.

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ANNEX D

Bleeding of animals.

1. For animals which have been stunned, bleeding shall be started as soon as possible. In the case of stunning by captive bolt or free bullet, bleeding or pithing shall be started within 1 minute after stunning.

When other stunning methods are used bleeding shall be started within 20 seconds after stunning.

2. All animals shall be bled by incising both carotid arteries or the vessels from which they arise. However, when the stunning method used causes cardiac arrest, the incision of all of these vessels shall not be obligatory, but in all cases at least one carotid artery shall be incised.

3. After incision of the blood vessels, no further dressing procedures shall be performed on the animals for at least 30 seconds, and in any case until all brain-stem reflexes have ceased.

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ANNEX E

Killing methods for disease control.

I. Permitted methods

1. Any method permitted in accordance with Annex C.

2. Injection of an overdose of a drug with anaesthetic properties, which causes an immediate loss of consciousness and death. This method is permitted for all species of animals.

3. Exposure to gas which, when inhaled, induces deep general anaesthesia and ultimately and certainly causes death. This method is permitted only for poultry. The use of engine exhaust gases is forbidden.

II. General requirements

1. If methods are used which do not cause immediate death (for example captive bolt shooting), measures shall be taken to kill the animals as soon as possible and in any case before they recover consciousness.

2. No other activities with the animals shall start until the competent authority has ensured that the animals are dead.

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ANNEX F

Methods of killing fur animals

I. Permitted methods

1. Mechanically-operated instruments which penetrate the brain.
2. Injection of an overdose of a drug with anaesthetic properties.
3. Electro-narcosis with cardiac arrest.
4. Exposure to carbon monoxide.
5. Exposure to chloroform.

The methods permitted for each species are:

	1	2	3	4	5
Mustelids (in particular mink and polecats)	x	x		x	
Foxes	x	x	x		
Chinchilla	x	x		x	x
Coypu	x	x			

II. Specific requirements

1. Mechanically-operated instruments which penetrate the brain

(A) Instruments shall be positioned so as to ensure that the projectile enters the cerebral cortex.

(B) This method is permitted only if it is followed by immediate bleeding.

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2. Injection of an overdose of a drug with anaesthetic properties

Only those anaesthetics shall be used and only that dose and application which cause immediate loss of consciousness followed by death.

3. Electronarcosis with cardiac arrest

(A) Electrodes shall be placed so that they span the brain and the heart.

(B) The minimum current level used shall lead to immediate loss of consciousness and cardiac arrest. Where electrodes are applied to the mouth and rectum, a minimum root mean square current of 0.3 amps shall be applied for at least 3 seconds.

4. Exposure to carbon monoxide

(A) The chamber in which the animals are exposed to the gas shall be designed, constructed and maintained in such a way as to avoid injury to the animals and shall allow supervision of the animals.

(B) The animals shall be introduced into the chamber only after it has been filled with a concentration of carbon monoxide of at least 1% by volume, supplied by a source of 100% carbon monoxide .

(C) The use of engine exhaust gases is forbidden.

(D) When inhaled the gas shall first induce deep general anaesthesia and shall ultimately and certainly cause death.

(E) The animals shall remain in the chamber until they are dead.

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5. Exposure to chloroform

(A) The chamber in which the animals are exposed to the gas shall be designed, constructed and maintained in such a way as to avoid injury to the animals and shall allow supervision of the animals.

(B) The animals shall be introduced into the chamber only if it contains a saturated chloroform-air compound.

(C) When inhaled the gas shall first induce deep general anaesthesia and shall ultimately and certainly cause death.

(D) The animals shall remain in the chamber until they are dead.

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ANNEX G

Killing of surplus chicks and embryos in hatchery waste

I. Permitted methods for the killing of chicks

1. Use of a mechanical apparatus causing rapid death.

2. Exposure to carbon dioxide gas.

II. Specific requirements

1. Use of a mechanical apparatus producing rapid death

(A) The animals shall be killed by an apparatus which contains rapidly rotating mechanically operated killing blades.

(B) The capacity of the apparatus must be sufficient to ensure that all animals are killed immediately, even if they are handled in large numbers.

2. Exposure to carbon dioxide

(A) The animals shall be placed in an atmosphere with the highest obtainable concentration of CO_2, supplied by a source of 100% CO_2.

(B) The animals shall remain in this atmosphere until they are dead.

III. Permitted method for the killing of embryos in hatchery waste

To kill any living embryos instantaneously, all hatchery waste shall be treated by the mechanical apparatus mentioned above.

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